

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BARRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BARRINGTON, RHODE ISLAND**

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**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 03/06/14**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, March 6, 2014, at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Dr. Shea, Mr. Connor, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Fuller and Mr. Guida.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Dr. Suzanne Costa led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington High School Principal Mr. Joseph Hurley has been elected to serve as a Commission member for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) 2014 Committee on Public Secondary Schools.

Barrington High School Science Teacher and Department Chair, Dr. Diana Siliezar-Shields, has been accepted into the National Association of Biology Teachers/Biological Sciences Curriculum Study Advanced Placement and Biology Leadership Academy.

Barrington Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Grader Nicholas Figueroa received an Honorable Mention for his entry in the "What Veterans Day Means to Me" Rhode Island State Elks Essay Contest.

Barrington Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Dominic Portelli is the 2014 Barrington Middle School Spelling Bee Champion, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grader Ariadne Dulchinos was the runner up.

Barrington High School Speech and Debate sent approximately 60 debaters to compete in the Rhode Island Speech and Debate Club State Championship on March 1 at Barrington High School. The novice team of Freshmen Eli Shea and Sidney Davis placed first, with Juniors Lucy Schwartz and Cole Reilly in second place. Varsity Juniors Emilie Chung and Sandy Greenberg placed third, and Seniors Nell Klimpert and Will Klimpert placed fourth overall. Seniors Timothy Connor, Raymond Mangiaratti, Juniors Theodore Kurkoski, Rebecca Levis, and Freshmen Jacob McNair and Ian Mellen also had strong finishes.

Barrington Middle School students participated in the state Mathcounts competition on March 1. The school team finished in second place and individual results include: second overall: Eliot Laidlaw (8th grade); third overall: Michael Lamontagne (8th grade); fifth overall: Jonny Zhang (7th grade); and thirteenth overall (tie): Annika Kelly (7th grade) and Sam Yuan (7th grade). Eliot Laidlaw also placed first and Michael Lamontagne placed third in the Countdown round and will be traveling to Walt Disney World in early May to compete at the national level. Mr. Messore congratulated all competitors including: 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Riddhi Adhiya and Rayna Mishra; 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Conor McGartoll and Timmy Zhou; and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Neha Basu and Anthony Lynn.

Athletic achievements across the District include the following: Swim Individual State Champions Senior

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Haley Ryan (50 Freestyle), and Sophomore Jack Fortin (100 Breast Stroke). In Track and Field, State and New England Champion, Junior Adam Kelly (Weight Throw); State and New England Champion, Senior Abigail Livingston (600 meter); State Champion 4x800 meter Relay Team - Seniors Abigail Livingston, Julianna Portelli, Megan Verner-Crist, and Sophomore Julia Zitzmann; New England Champion 4x800 meter Relay Team - Seniors Abigail Livingston, Julianna Portelli, Megan Verner-Crist, and Mary Kate Coogan. The Wrestling, Girls Ice Hockey, and Boys Basketball Teams are all Division Champions. Both Boys Basketball Junior Corey Daugherty and Girls Basketball Senior Maura Kelty scored their 1,000<sup>th</sup> point in February. In Barrington Middle School Sports, the Girls Basketball team ended as State Runner-ups for the 2nd consecutive season; the Boys Basketball team finished in the top eight schools in Rhode Island; and the Wrestling team finished second in the State, with ten place finishers.

On February 20, Congressman David Cicilline presented Barrington High School with the National Trainers Association Safe School Sports Award and posed for pictures with Athletic Director Mr. George Finn, Barrington High School Trainer Ms. Whitney Howe and the Barrington High School Boys and Girls Basketball teams.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon served as a panelist at the LearnLaunch 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, *Across Boundaries - How Can Edtech Scale Student Success* held at the Harvard Graduate School of Education on February 28-March 1. Mrs. Dillon presented on *The Shift to Digital Learning: How Educators Are Being Supported*.

**BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning**

Mr. Messore introduced Barrington High School Social Studies Department Chair and Teacher Mr. Steven Pickford, who provided a presentation on student achievement and growth as reflected by the increase in Grade 11 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) scores in Writing and Reading. Barrington High School English Department Chair and Teacher Mr. Kevin Blanchard, due to also be present, was away attending a training session. Mr. Pickford highlighted initiatives including vertical articulation of the curriculum across grade levels and freshman platoons and provided an overview of the strategies and assessment tools used to support teaching and learning. A focus on reading and writing across the curriculum and cross-departmental collaborations continue to facilitate the growth in student achievement at Barrington High School.

**Information and Proposals**

Barrington High School Library Department Chair and Librarian, Dr. Suzanne Costa, and Nayatt School Librarian, Mrs. Cherylann Bertoncini provided an overview of the district's library media program. Dr. Costa introduced all the librarians in the district, some of whom were present at the meeting. While incorporating technology into the library curriculum, the focus continues to be on creating a lifelong passion for reading for students. Dr. Costa highlighted the work of each librarian aligned to the Common Core State Standards and support provided by more than 100 volunteers. Dr. Costa also presented the School Committee with individual copies of the 2014 Reading Across Rhode Island book, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan, as a gift. Questions and discussion included the balance between print and digital resources, information literacy, and the greatest challenges facing libraries today.

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Mr. Messore introduced Barrington High School Business Teacher, Work Study Advisor, and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Advisor, Mr. John West, to provide information on the current work-study program and its transition to an internship program. Mr. West provided an overview of the new internship program that is under development in the district and its benefits and requirements, as well as the expected role of the mentors in the program and the potential for future coordination with the district volunteer program. Mr. West also provided feedback received from students who have participated in this school-to-career program. Questions from the Committee included the number of students participating in the current work study program, the future opportunity chance for students to present their own work-study proposals, the creation of community partnerships with utilization of local resources and the need for rebranding of the program as an internship program. Mr. Connor noted that he had no idea about this information/program and suggested that the information be included in the Program of Studies at Barrington High School for student reference in the future.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Mrs. Cynthia Armour Coyne, Town Council Liaison to the School Committee, noted two items of interest discussed at the recent Town Council meeting including the proposed cell tower at the Sowams School by AT&T and a proposed turf field at Barrington High School by a parent community group. As next steps, the Town Council has suggested that both parties present their proposed plans to the School Committee.

Mr. Kevin Ryan, of the Barrington Booster Club, spoke on behalf of Dr. Alex Robertson who had presented the proposal to the Town Council for a turf field at Barrington High School. The turf field proposal includes an initial quote of \$500,000-\$800,000 to install the field and Dr. Robertson will spearhead private solicitations for its installation. The Town of Barrington would continue to manage the maintenance of the field with a potential decrease in maintenance costs, and fees for scheduled use of the field could provide a potential source of revenue. Mr. Ryan noted that synthetic fields are becoming the norm and that there is data to support fewer concussions on this type of field. Mr. Messore reported that the turf field proposal will be a future agenda item once more information is gathered to clarify questions.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to move the discussion supporting the athletic training wall grant to this portion of the meeting. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messore introduced Mr. Michael Curry, who on behalf of the East Bay lacrosse and soccer organizations, is seeking the approval of the Committee for a proposed athletic training wall to be installed at Barrington Middle School. Mr. Curry provided handouts to the Committee with additional information and noted that the wall would be a private donation to the Town of Barrington. The Committee agreed to further discuss and vote on the proposed wall at their next meeting on March 20 pending the recommendation from the Superintendent following confirmation regarding required insurance coverage.

Mr. Messore presented the 2014-2015 School Calendar for School Committee approval. The calendar

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includes an annotation on February 9 as a Professional Development/Senior Project Reading Day.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Messore provided an update on Strategic Communication in the district and noted the upcoming student forum on March 14 at Barrington High School that will provide students with the opportunity to express their thoughts on a variety of topics including school climate, curriculum transitions and school culture. Mr. Messore reported that, consistent with best practice in high performing school districts on a national basis, a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a communications consultant for the district will be posted next week. Mrs. Dillon also noted that the first Math workshop for elementary parents will be held on March 27 at Barrington Middle School.

Mr. Tarro reported that he, Mrs. Brody and Mr. Messore met with the Committee on Appropriations on March 5 and responded to the Committee's questions on the proposed 2014-2015 school operating budget. Mrs. Brody commended Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messore for their tremendous work and full command of information at the meeting. Next steps include a joint meeting with the entire School Committee to be scheduled in April.

**Old Business from School Committee**

Mr. Tarro reported that Requests for Proposal (RFP) to begin the projects identified as immediate health and safety projects are on target to be released soon. Mr. Tarro and Mr. Messore have presented information at recent PTO meetings on the projects as well as structural renovations required for the potential All Day Kindergarten program. Discussion ensued on future projects such as the Middle School building project and renovations to the parking lots at the Primrose Hill and Nayatt schools.

Mrs. Brody reported that the first session of the Committee's Governance Workshop will be held on March 26 in the Barrington High School Library in open session. The Committee will move forward with the workshops while awaiting final word from the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) Executive Board on its decision relative to financial support for the District for its participation in this pilot program.

**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Kathleen Good, HM, Art Teacher. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the resignations of Arthur Berriman, HS, Junior Varsity Girls Softball Coach; and Adam Speakman, HS, Head Junior Varsity Baseball Coach. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

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**New Business from School Committee**

Mrs. Brody reported that the National School Boards Association 2014 Annual Conference will be held on April 5-7, 2014 in New Orleans. Dr. Dominguez expressed her interest in possibly representing the Committee at the conference pending her scheduling availability.

**Decision Items**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mr. Messore noted the opportunity to review and revise the current district tobacco policy, which currently does not include the use of electronic cigarettes, and the lunch program policy to accurately reflect language from the Rhode Island Department of Education. Mr. Messore also noted that a future meeting agenda will include an update from the Barrington High School Advisory Program.

Mrs. Brody requested that a future agenda include discussion on the district waiver policy, as well as the field trip policy.

**General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, March 20 will feature updates on pupil personnel services, Response to Intervention (RTI), New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) results, and an achievement data report.

Dr. Dominguez noted that the first of three public forums as part of the Outside the Box, Public Conversations on Helping Our Children to Thrive series, originally scheduled for March 3 will now be held on March 10. Part One is titled Play & Relationships. Dr. Dominguez also noted the Senate's Economic Summit on reimagining career and technical education that will be also be held on March 10 at the Community College of Rhode Island's Providence campus.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Dr. Scott Douglas, of 25 Rumstick Road, encouraged the administration to create Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), similar to the Common Core FAQs, for public donations to schools to record the information gathered from donations like the Nayatt playground, and pending items such as the athletic training wall and turf field, with a link to the District Strategic Plan to capture efficiencies and possible future funding.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:12**

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**p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(2) for collective bargaining and litigation with BEST; and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:41 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**